The Texas A&M University System is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Texas—Assistant Professor of Spatial Soil and Water Management. The Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University invites application for a 10-month, tenure-track position. The position is split 25% teaching and 75% research. The incumbent will build a program aimed at developing, evaluating, and improving remote and proximal soil-sensing technologies; strategies for collecting physical and chemical properties of soils in complex landscapes; and algorithms for land, water, and resource management based on interpretation of layered soil, water, chemical input, and vegetation data. The Department is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute diversity to the team along with excellence in research and teaching. The incumbent will teach an undergraduate and graduate course related to precision mapping and management of soil and water resources, and will be expected to develop of a strong program where grant support is used to enhance both graduate and undergraduate pursuits in education. The position requires a Ph.D. in Soil Science, or a related science, with expertise in remote and proximal sensing of soil or near-surface geological properties, and in management of meter-scale high-resolution, layered geospatial data generated by such sensing, along with a track-record of publishing research findings. A candidate with good working knowledge of physics and electronics, experience in production agriculture, and a record of successful grant applications is highly preferred. An interest and ability to work in an interdisciplinary team research and instructional endeavors is essential. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. A guide to the benefits offered can be found at http://www.tamu.edu/assets/files/benefits/pdf/GuideBooklet.pdf. The position will be available September 1, 2013 or upon completion of the selection process. The deadline for application is July 8, 2013 or until a suitable candidate is identified. Qualified individuals are invited to apply to NOV 06879 at https://greatjobs.tamu.edu. Contact Kevin McInnes (k-mcinnes@tamu.edu or 979-845-5986) for additional information. The Texas A&M University System is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M University encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Students

The Art of Finding a Mentor
by Mandy Liesch
doi:10.2134/csa2013-58-7-18

I am lucky enough to have an affliction of being unafraid of rejection in a public sector. I never find a mentor; it was actually a total accident. I was in Europe and needed to write a 60- to 80-page paper on something to do with sustainable agriculture. I showed up on the doorstep of the Scottish Agricultural College promising free labor and wound up with an enthusiastic soil physicist as a mentor. Having an ebullient personality, this scenario repeated itself throughout the years.

Fear not oh introverts! This article is dedicated to the art of finding and keeping mentors.

What is a Mentor?

In short, a mentor is somebody you admire and learn from. Be it for their personal skills, their professional success, their outreach activities, or some combination of these. Even the most informal mentoring relationship require time on both sides, but the mentor/mentee relationship can be mutually beneficial to both parties. A mentor may be there to help you develop your career because they believe in your potential and believe that the time worth investing in you is worth the cost. In turn, mentors get to share their enthusiasm and gain new perspectives about a topic they love.

Mentors want to help you solve problems and pass down their knowledge.

I often make the joke that I have a “crisis mentor tree.” I have mentors that help me become more emotional, mentors that help me negotiate career advice, who help me calm down, and mentors who challenge me (insert adviser here). I even have a mentor for crisis management. Before you contemplate finding or cementing a relationship, you need to know what you want to blend the line between mentorship and friendship with. Some mentors may not even know they are a mentor. Some may be reluctant to call it a mentorship.